

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method for assaying N samples, wherein N is greater than or equal to 2, said samples each containing a single compound to be tested, said method comprising:
  - a) providing N populations of carrier beads wherein the carrier beads of each population [are distinguishable]comprise a detectable label for distinguishing the carrier beads of each population from the carrier beads of every other population,  
and  
a reagent bound thereto,  
said reagent being the same for all of said carrier beads<sup>in each</sup>(and for all) of said N populations;
  - b) dispensing [each]one distinguishable population of said N populations of carrier beads into a separate, corresponding one of N different reaction vessels, so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N populations, and  
performing said dispensing for each population of said N populations;
  - c) dispensing [each ]one of said N samples into a separate, corresponding one of said N different reaction vessels, so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N samples and one of said N populations, and  
performing said dispensing for each sample of said N samples;

- d) providing in a fluid medium, in each of said N different reaction vessels, additional reagents for performing an assay [whereby]and wherein the same said additional reagents are provided in all of said N different reaction vessels and wherein one of said additional reagents or said reagent bound to said carrier bead, carries a signal moiety that is partitioned between said carrier beads and said fluid medium during said assay, in each one of said N different reaction vessels [and the assay medium, indicating at least one of the following: the presence or absence of the compound to be tested, the concentration of the compound to be tested, and the biological activity of the compound to be tested]and performing said assay on all of said N different reaction vessels;
- e) combining the contents of said N different reaction vessels [into]to form a mixture, and
- f) [subjecting]analyzing the mixture [to analysis ]by flow cytometry[, to the signal moiety from each of a sequence of individual beads;]

wherein[ N is greater than or equal to 2]

- i) measurement of said signal moiety indicates at least one of the following: presence or absence of said compound to be tested, concentration of said compound to be tested, and biological activity of said compound to be tested;

and

- ii) measurement of said detectable label indicates the sample containing said compound to be tested.

6. (three times amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [a]the reagent that is bound to said carrier bead, of the reagents recited in step d), is provided on said carrier beads, which are pre-coated with said reagent for performing the assay.
7. (three times amended) The method of claim [2]1, wherein said detectable label comprises at least one fluorescent dye.
8. (three times amended) The method of claim [2]1, wherein said detectable label comprises an electronic label.
11. (twice amended) A kit for assaying, according to the method of claim 1, N samples, each of said samples containing [one or more]a single compound to be tested, said kit comprising:  
  
N populations of carrier beads wherein the carrier beads of each population are distinguishable from the carrier beads of every other population, and wherein all the beads are pre-coated with identical reagent at a substantially identical surface concentration for performing the assay;  
  
and  
  
a supply of additional reagents for performing the assay,  
  
wherein N is [at least]greater than or equal to 2.